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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22428 7590 06/08/2011
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

BARROW, AMANDA J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1729

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/550,512

09/23/2005

Hiromasa Sakai

040302-0503

1973

TITLE OF INVENTION: CONTROL DEVICE OF VEHICULAR FUEL CELL SYSTEM AND RELATED METHOD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	09/08/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

22428 7590 06/08/2011
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SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/550,512	09/23/2005	Hiromasa Sakai	040302-0503	1973
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TITLE OF INVENTION: CONTROL DEVICE OF VEHICULAR FUEL CELL SYSTEM AND RELATED METHOD

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	09/08/2011
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EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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BARROW, AMANDA J	1729	429-429000
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1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/550,512	09/23/2005	Hiromasa Sakai	040302-0503	1973

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EXAMINER

BARROW, AMANDA J

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DATE MAILED: 06/08/2011

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 576 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 576 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/550,512	SAKAI, HIROMASA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	AMANDA BARROW	1729	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/11/2011.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 6-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|---|

/AMANDA BARROW/
Examiner, Art Unit 1729

/ULA C. RUDDOCK/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1729

Art Unit: 1729

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Application

1. The Applicant's amendment filed on 4/11/2011 was received. No claims were amended or cancelled.

2. The texts of those sections of Title 35, U.S.C. code not included in this action can be found in the prior Office Action issued on 12/23/2008.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin McHenry on 5/18/2011 and confirmed via a fax received on 5/18/2011.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 11 as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A control device of a vehicular fuel cell system, comprising:

a warm-up output control section configured, when the fuel cell system is started up under a low temperature condition necessary for warm-up of a fuel cell stack and when the [[a]] fuel cell stack of the fuel cell system is warmed up, to cause the fuel cell stack to generate electric power to allow predetermined warm-up electric power to be drawn; and

a run permission section configured to determine, during a period wherein the warm-up electric power is drawn by the warm-up output control section, whether the fuel cell stack assumes a predetermined warm-up condition on a basis of one of (1) a voltage value and (2) an electric current value of the fuel cell stack, wherein when a determination is made that the fuel cell stack assumes the predetermined warm-up condition, the run permission section is configured to provide a vehicle with a run permission,

~~wherein the run permission section is configured to provide the vehicle with the run permission~~ (1) when the voltage value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or more than a run available voltage value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available voltage value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the electric current value of the fuel cell stack and the run available voltage value at a temperature at which an output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission, or (2) when the electric current value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or less than a run available current value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available current value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the voltage value of the fuel cell stack and the run available current value at a temperature at which the output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission.

10. (Currently Amended) A control device of a vehicular fuel cell system, comprising:

a warm-up output controlling means, when the fuel cell system is started up under a low temperature condition necessary for warm-up of a fuel cell stack and when the [[a]] fuel cell stack of the fuel cell system is warmed up, for controlling the fuel cell stack to generate electric power to allow predetermined warm-up electric power to be drawn; and

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a run permission providing means for providing a vehicle with a run permission when a determination is made that the fuel cell stack assumes a predetermined warm-up condition, wherein the run permission providing means is configured to determine whether the fuel cell stack assumes the predetermined warm-up condition on a basis of one of (1) a voltage value and (2) an electric current value of the fuel cell stack during a period wherein the warm-up electric power is drawn by the warm-up output controlling means,

wherein the run permission providing means is configured to provide the vehicle with the run permission (1) when the voltage value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or more than a run available voltage value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available voltage value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the electric current value of the fuel cell stack and the run available voltage value at a temperature at which an output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission, or (2) when the electric current value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or less than a run available current value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available current value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the voltage value of the fuel cell stack and the run available current value at a temperature at which the output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling a vehicular fuel cell system, the method comprising:

drawing a predetermined warm-up electric power by controlling a fuel cell stack to generate electric power when a fuel cell system is started up under a low temperature condition necessary for warm-up of the fuel cell stack and when the fuel cell stack of the fuel cell system is warmed up; and

providing a vehicle with a run permission when a determination is made that the fuel cell stack assumes a predetermined warm-up condition, while determining whether the fuel cell stack assumes the predetermined warm-up condition on the basis of one of (1) a voltage value and (2) an electric current value of the fuel cell stack during a period in which the warm-up electric power is drawn,

wherein the vehicle is provided with the run permission (1) when the voltage value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or more than a run available voltage value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available voltage value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the electric current value of the fuel cell stack and the run available voltage value at a temperature at which an output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission, or (2) when the electric current value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or less than a run available current value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available current value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the voltage value of the fuel cell stack and the run available current value at a temperature at which the output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noetzel et al. (US 2003/0051899) in view of Keskula et al. (US 2002/0051899) on claims 1, 10 and 11 are withdrawn as the Applicants arguments are persuasive.

All claim rejections pending from this are also withdrawn due to the dependency nature of the remaining claims on independent claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1 and 6-11 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art does not teach a control device of a vehicular fuel cell system, comprising: a warm-up output control section configured, when the fuel cell system is started up under a low temperature condition necessary for warm-up of a fuel cell stack and

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when the fuel cell stack of the fuel cell system is warmed up, to cause the fuel cell stack to generate electric power to allow predetermined warm-up electric power to be drawn; and a run permission section configured to determine, during a period wherein the warm-up electric power is drawn by the warm-up output control section, whether the fuel cell stack assumes a predetermined warm-up condition on a basis of one of (1) a voltage value and (2) an electric current value of the fuel cell stack, wherein when a determination is made that the fuel cell stack assumes the predetermined warm-up condition, the run permission section is configured to provide a vehicle with a run permission, (1) when the voltage value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or more than a run available voltage value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available voltage value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the electric current value of the fuel cell stack and the run available voltage value at a temperature at which an output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission, or (2) when the electric current value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or less than a run available current value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available current value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the voltage value of the fuel cell stack and the run available current value at a temperature at which the output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission (independent claim 1).

The prior art also does not teach a control device of a vehicular fuel cell system, comprising: a warm-up output controlling means, when the fuel cell system is started up under a low temperature condition necessary for warm-up of a fuel cell stack and when the fuel cell stack

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of the fuel cell system is warmed up, for controlling the fuel cell stack to generate electric power to allow predetermined warm-up electric power to be drawn; and a run permission providing means for providing a vehicle with a run permission when a determination is made that the fuel cell stack assumes a predetermined warm-up condition, wherein the run permission providing means is configured to determine whether the fuel cell stack assumes the predetermined warm-up condition on a basis of one of (1) a voltage value and (2) an electric current value of the fuel cell stack during a period wherein the warm-up electric power is drawn by the warm-up output controlling means, wherein the run permission providing means is configured to provide the vehicle with the run permission (1) when the voltage value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or more than a run available voltage value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available voltage value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the electric current value of the fuel cell stack and the run available voltage value at a temperature at which an output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission, or (2) when the electric current value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or less than a run available current value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available current value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the voltage value of the fuel cell stack and the run available current value at a temperature at which the output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission (independent claim 10).

The prior art also fails to disclose a method of controlling a vehicular fuel cell system, the method comprising: drawing a predetermined warm-up electric power by controlling a fuel cell

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stack to generate electric power when a fuel cell system is started up under a low temperature condition necessary for warm-up of the fuel cell stack and when the fuel cell stack of the fuel cell system is warmed up; and providing a vehicle with a run permission when a determination is made that the fuel cell stack assumes a predetermined warm-up condition, while determining whether the fuel cell stack assumes the predetermined warm-up condition on the basis of one of (1) a voltage value and (2) an electric current value of the fuel cell stack during a period in which the warm-up electric power is drawn, wherein the vehicle is provided with the run permission (1) when the voltage value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or more than a run available voltage value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available voltage value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the electric current value of the fuel cell stack and the run available voltage value at a temperature at which an output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission, or (2) when the electric current value of the fuel cell stack is equal to or less than a run available current value that is necessary before the vehicle may commence travel, wherein the run available current value is obtained from predetermined current/voltage characteristics showing a relationship between the voltage value of the fuel cell stack and the run available current value at a temperature at which the output value of the fuel cell stack is available to provide the vehicle with the run permission (independent claim 11).

The closest prior art of record, Noetzel, fails to disclose the teaching, suggestion or motivation to arrive at the presently claimed inventions and as correctly pointed out by the Applicant, Noetzel does not disclose or suggest the concept of providing a run permission to a

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vehicle at a temperature via a run permission section as recited in claims 1, 10 and 11; Keskula does not remedy this deficiency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AMANDA BARROW whose telephone number is (571)270-7867. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5pm EST. Monday-Friday, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ula Ruddock can be reached on 571-272-1481. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/AMANDA BARROW/
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